

Affirmation

AN INDEPENDENT VOICE FOR:
UNITED METHODISTS FOR LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, AND QUEER CONCERNS
PO BOX 1021, EVANSTON, IL 60204-1021 * UMAFFIRMATION@YAHOO.COM *
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Volume 31 Issue 2

PERIODICALS

June 2006

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Remembering Mary Gaddis

By The Rev. Ken Rowe Co-Spokeperson for National Affirmation: United Methodists for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns

On April 8, I walked into Epworth UMC on the edge of Berkeley to pay my respect and be part of the community giving witness to the life and ministry of Mary Gaddis. The church was packed, and as I took my seat in the balcony, a slide show began with images of Mary from the many areas of her life. I watched and listened as laughter mingled with weeping while the images blended on the back of the chancel wall, and folk music played. The sanctuary was full of family and friends from the church and labor movement, from local public schools, and from activists concerned with human rights in Central America and North America.

The service itself included elements from Mary's diverse life and work. Family members, teachers, students, union leaders, pastors, and other church

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Affirmation Retreat

By Rev. David Meredith

Eve was clay – for life.

Cain was marked – for protection.

Each a human body linked with the divine presence.

Lydia saw purple. Zaccheus climbed high to see.

An unnamed woman knelt low to anoint Jesus' feet.

Thomas touched raw wounds, and Joseph wrapped the body in linen and spices.

Each one sensually encountered God with their bodies.

Jacob limped; Moses stuttered; Miriam danced; and Jesus wept.

Each one followed God with their bodies.

Ruth was a border-crossing immigrant. Jonathan loved David.

Rahab was an entrepreneurial brothel owner.

John baptized Jesus with water. Mary was an unwed mother.

Each one was outside the norm. Each one was queer to others.

AND each one was included in God's polis – body and community.

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Remembering Mary Gaddis *(Continued from page 1)*

members all spoke and gave witness to the incredible spirit that touched so many lives.

Several of Mary's jackets, her jean jackets, work jackets, and casual jackets were strung above the heads of the people in the sanctuary. I've known Mary only a few years, having seen her in action at General Conference and small groups around the annual conference, but I could remember clearly seeing Mary in each of those jackets. While I was scanning the various jackets, I noticed a reflection in the peripheral vision of my glasses. It was the stained glass window from behind me, but it was being projected ahead of me in my lenses. It was a powerful moment, and one that I am thankful for Mary once more, bringing me to that place, among her people, in her church, to be reminded that the faith that I sometimes think of in my past, is in fact in front of me. The world, and of course, the United Methodist Church is a richer place for Mary. I know I felt empowered and grateful for being part of Mary's broader community.

Thank you to Judy Cayot and Epworth Church for supporting Mary, and sharing her with all of us.

Mary Gaddis's life was full of passion, love, learning, compassion, and righteous anger. I can't help but feel more than honored to be serving as Co-Spokesperson of Affirmation, a position which she filled for six years. Affirmation is proud to be one of the designated ministries for Mary's memorial funds. If you would like to make a donation in Mary's honor, and/or have memories and stories that should be told, please send them to: PO Box 1021, Evanston, IL 60204. You may also use the envelope inserted with this issue of the Affirmation Newsletter along with the form inserted. You may designate gifts to the Mary Gaddis Memorial Fund by checking the box on the donation form enclosed and/or by writing "Mary Gaddis Memorial Fund" on the memo line of your check.

Editors note: During GC2004, Affirmation interviewed Mary as a part of the Affirmation Oral History project. Her account of Affirmation's presence at some of the early General Conferences was a classic example of her humor as well as the dedication and affection she had for Affirmation. A transcription of that account will be included in a forthcoming issue of the Newsletter.

Affirmation Newsletter

This Affirmation newsletter is a quarterly publication.

Only Affirmation's elected spokespersons may represent the official positions of this organization. Opinions here, signed or unsigned, are those of the writers, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Affirmation.

Articles for consideration for publication may be submitted to: AffirmationNewsletter@yahoogroups.com.

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Jan DeLap & Diane DeLap

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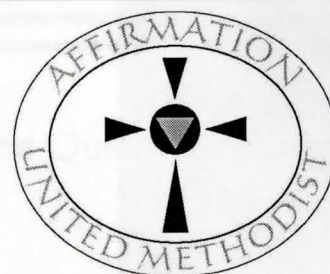
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Mission Statement

As an independent voice of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer people, Affirmation radically reclaims the compassionate and transforming gospel of Jesus Christ by relentlessly pursuing full inclusion in the Church as we journey with the Spirit in creating God's beloved community.

Adopted January 2005



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UMC High Court's Judicial Activism from the Right

By The Rev. Ken Rowe Co-Spokeperson for National Affirmation: United Methodists for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns

The United Methodist Church never ceases to surprise me, from the "Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Doors" public relations campaign to our constant willingness to reach deep into our pockets for mission and disasters. The most recent Judicial Council decision not to reconsider its earlier ruling to allow a pastor to deny church membership to LGBT Christians is, well, amazing.

The majority on the Judicial Council, who imply they represent the majority of United Methodists, insist they are following the letter of the law, and that it's time to put the matter to the rest. Amazing. The law wins over the gospel. The majority decides for the minority.

Somehow, I don't think this is put to rest.

What has been put to rest by the latest decision is what big picture the "Majority" of the Judicial Council is operating under. They seem to be so fearful of non-heterosexuals in the church that they are willing to go against the very core of Christianity and the Methodist movement.

Meanwhile, our brothers and sisters in the United Church of Christ have been trying to run advertising to show that not all churches are narrow minded, exclusive, judgmental and puritanical, as the media tends to show. The UCC commercials show a sanctuary full of people, then unexpectedly a mother with a crying baby are flung up in the air by an "ejection" pew, followed by a gay couple, a single man, a person in a walker, and then person after person. The commercial ends with "God Doesn't Reject People." What a powerful message – a message that secular media have rejected by and large because it's viewed as too controversial.

And yet here in the UMC, the people who brought us "Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Doors", the denomination's ultimate authority, the Judicial Council, has mandated closed minds, closed hearts, and closed doors.

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Affirmation Retreat (Continued from page 1)

Join Affirmation for a weekend retreat where body, spirit, and community are united.

Come as you are with your feelings, your self-perceived limitations, and your particular body. Come as you are with your hungers and hopes. Come as you are to the community of Affirmation, and let Affirmation be your church for the weekend.

The weekend will be a flowing pattern of:

- ❖ Conversations that matter
- ❖ New insights from presenters Jeanne Hoefft and David Meredith that unlock and release
- ❖ Sacred actions that deepen intimacy and awareness
- ❖ Alone time balanced with community time,
- ❖ Silence balanced with sound, and
- ❖ Experiences that span the broad range of senses and feelings.

Bring your whole self, a journal, and a Bible. If you have them, bring a United Methodist Hymnal and *The Faith We Sing*.

Come as you are and experience the promises of God. Renew your baptism – the holy bath. Taste and see the goodness of God in communion – the holy meal. Touch the intimacy of God through the sharing of signs of peace - the holy kiss. Become again, anew, and afresh the body of Christ, the temple of God - the holy house for God.

Retreat Registration

Labor Day Weekend

Friday, September 1, 2006 (5 PM) to Monday, September 4, 2006 (noon)

(Registration Deadline: July 15, 2006)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I will require transportation from the airport to the retreat center: _____

Local church name and conference (if available): _____

Registration: \$190.00 (Late Registration: \$200.00)

Mail to: Affirmation Retreat Registration; PO Box 1021; Evanston, IL 60204

(UMC High Court's Judicial Activism from the Right Continued from page 3)

The decision of the Judicial Council was not unanimous. There were four voices of dissent. The fact there is dissent and truth-telling on the Judicial Council, and by the grace of God, allows me to stay in the UMC.

The organization for which I am a national co-spokesperson, Affirmation: United Methodists for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns, continues to witness, act, and testify to the lives and ministries of LGBT United Methodists. We believe that the latest Judicial Council ruling makes clear the level of fear and intolerance in the United Methodist Church. The Judicial Council apparently now allows pastors to deny membership to LGBT people, but it is not much of a prophecy to declare that God will rise up LGBT children born of heterosexual members. The UMC can continue to eject us, but God doesn't reject us.

The Rev. Ken Rowe is a clergy member of the Minnesota Annual Conference, and is co-spokesperson for National Affirmation. Located in San Francisco, he is on the steering committee for United Genders of the Universe, and is community co-chair of the city's anti-syphilis campaign.

For more information on Affirmation, web: www.umaffirm.org, email: umaffirmation@yahoo.com or post letters to Affirmation, P.O. Box 1021, Evanston, IL 60204.

Affirmation at General Conference 2008

WOW OH WOW!!!

You Have To Be There!!

Recently Affirmation continued its planning for General Conference 2008 (GC 2008) during a meeting in Fort Worth, TX where the GC will be held. We stayed at the hotel that the progressive movement has already reserved. It is right across the street from the Convention Center that the UMC will use. Closer to April 2008, you will get information on how to book a room, etc. MFSA has researched the issues, and reserved the hotel for us. Thanks to MFSA people for their great logistical support.

Wait until you see the Fort Worth Convention Center! It is stunning! In their main ballroom, they have a ceiling covered with gigantic Stars of Texas. In one lobby, they have custom designed carpet to show the imprint of the cattle hoofs on a drive from the prairies to the slaughterhouses. It's almost like standing on the prairie and seeing the hoof mark after the cattle drive just passed by. [Hey watch out for the cow pies!!] On another level, they have carpet that looks like the flowers from the Texas grasslands. It is like being out in the grasslands while the flowers are in bloom. Also, the Star Tower entrance to the Convention Center is something to behold.

GC 2008 is going to be a grand time of standing up for justice, inclusion, and for Jesus' teachings. Be There With Affirmation! Put it on your calendar now. With a theme of "A Future With Hope," the nearly 1,000 delegates from around the world will meet from April 23 to May 2, 2008 for General Conference 2008 in Fort Worth. See you in Fort Worth.

Mary

by Judy Cayot

(Editors note: The following is the text of Judy Cayot's tribute to Mary Gaddis at her Memorial Service, April 8, 2006, Epworth UMC, Berkley, CA)

It's impossible to adequately express who Mary was in these moments, this day. It is my turn now to share a glimpse of who she was, and to celebrate it all.

These are some of the words used to describe Mary in the many cards and notes I've received:

Integrity, clarity, honesty, and wondrous creativity

Visionary

Inspiring

She is there where compassion and justice meet

Kind, generous

A joyous, bright spirit

Agitating for fairness

A role model

Direct, demanding honesty

Living in the moment

Mighty and strong - yet so gentle

Fun, funny

Courageous

Extremely loyal

Passionate

Dedicated to making a difference

An unfiltered truth-teller

..and in the words of more than one young person -

Mary was cool.

Despite these many traits, or perhaps because of them, Mary was not always easy to live with. She often seemed a walking contradiction - naive yet worldly wise, physically strong yet, at times, unable to walk out of a room without assistance, fierce yet gentle, with a capacity for deep rage and a commitment to nonviolence. She described herself as an extroverted - hermit. Her passionate nature took a lot of space, and understanding, and it took me to places I wouldn't have gone alone - at least not that far!

Mary's passion was balanced by her compassion and generosity. One could not hold on to Mary too tightly, she had so much to share, so much to do.

How many times did I have to wait in the grocery store while she chatted with the clerk? It was part of her nature to compliment people for a job well done - especially folks who seldom got thanked - she frequently wrote notes to supervisors or asked to speak to them about an employee. And, when given the chance, would usually end by saying, "you're not paying them enough!"

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Mary (Continued from page 6)

Even in ICU Mary was charming the folks who served her. One of the guys on the lift team at John Muir said to me - "I just love her, she has such a great personality - and she's so funny." Somehow, Mary's essence shone through the drugs, the pain, and the frustration of being flat on her back for days. When Mary began to feel a little better, she was quizzing these same men about their jobs - found out it was union work, good pay, and didn't require college education. She began making plans to have someone from the hospital come speak to her students at Kennedy. A large portion of her waking hours in her last week were spent thinking about how to improve her teaching, how to make life better for her students.

Mary was not a one-cause person. As I looked through her address book last week, I began noting all the groups and organizations she had phone numbers or addresses for - over 30. Everything from the Alameda County Central Labor Council to Dikes on Bikes to the Methodist Federation for Social Action, National Brain Tumor Foundation, Prison Activists, Richmond Adult School, Sierra Service Project, the US House and Senate, Witness For Peace, the White House Comment Line, and the CEO of Coca Cola. And I dare say she has called, written, demonstrated, or worked with (or against) every one of them. Mary had work still to do. We still have work to do.

(Continued on page 8)

Remembering Howard and Milly Eychaner

By Kathryn Mitchem

Toward the end of 2005, word of Howard Eychaner's death came through several of our United Methodist LGBT communication channels. These articles included reference to Milly Eychaner having preceded Howard in death. There were also many powerful words about their lifelong commitment together to justice, in particular their tireless work for full acceptance and inclusion of gays and lesbians in society and in the United Methodist Church.

As I read the eloquent tributes, I was flooded with grateful memories of Howard and Milly among us! For many years they were faithful participants in most every National Affirmation event, especially our two weeks of witness and action at each General Conference. They were some of the earliest parents to be strong members of Affirmation, and were indeed tireless in their encouragement, support, and advocacy.

One way they expressed their commitment was through a courageous, maybe even unique, approach to raising the awareness of their local church to issues of inclusion for LGBT folk. Their support always included their monetary resources which they chose to contribute monthly through the local church. This required the church to remit a monthly check to Affirmation, and to list the contributions in finance reports.

When Affirmation birthed the exciting and very significant Reconciling Congregation Program in 1984, Howard and Milly were immediately supportive and involved. And they just as quickly added monthly RCP contributions to their 'beyond the local church' gifts - of course, sent through their local church treasury.

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Mary (Continued from page 7)

Many people have shared with me how knowing Mary changed them. I recently saw the musical "Wicked" - there is a song in it that spoke to me of Mary: "So much of me is made of what I learned from you. You'll be with me like a handprint on my heart... I do believe I have been changed for the better - and because I knew you, I have been changed for good." It is my hope that we have all been changed for good.

With all the ways that Mary and I were engaged in the world together - and separately - the things I will miss the most are the simple things - sitting in our rockers on the front porch reading or talking about life; taking the ferry to see the tulips blooming at Pier 39; riding our bikes from Newport to Balboa and playing skee-ball at the Fun Zone.

Mary was my best friend, co-parent to our children, grandma to Adrik, my rooting section, my collaborator in work and play, my biggest challenge, and my dancing partner. She was the most complex simple person I have known.

In celebration of the dance of life that was and is Mary, I close with this Wendell Berry poem. It is one I read at the "Let Us Eat Cake" celebration that the Epworth community had last year - a celebration of committed relationships and marriages whether gay, straight or lesbian. - "The Dance." (Editors note: See www.thedance.net)

My hope is that we all keep dreaming, dancing, and agitating with Mary.

What You Can Do In Your Local Community

Affirmation has a great story to tell. Affirmation provides a safe place for LGBT UMs to talk to each other and critique the church and allies from our experience. Time and time again, our partners are straight folks who think they know best or closeted folks who may or may not be able to speak on the issue. To have a table of partners, without an out LGBT voice, seems hardly a table worth attending.

The Affirmation Council is encouraging our members to represent Affirmation at events, both religious and secular, in their local community. Let the event organizer know in advance that you would like to talk about Affirmation in the event agenda. Tell event attendees about Affirmation, what retreats we are planning and the other activities we have underway. Use the newsletter and web site to provide information on what is going on. Encourage them to join Affirmation, and to join us at General Conference 2008 in Fort Worth. Tell them about our web site at www.umaaffirm.org and donate \$25 or more to become a member. Not only will they receive our periodic newsletter, but also they will receive the beautiful Christmas card we are doing again in 2006. It will be our sixth Christmas card.

These events can be Annual Conferences, PFLAG events, UM regional events, HRC, NGLTF and ecumenical progressive events, for example. Remember to wear your Affirmation shirt if you have one. (We are selling out of our inventory currently, and if you want one of the sizes we still have in stock, order ASAP.) Bring extra copies of the newsletter to distribute. If you want more handout ideas and sources, contact Jim Palmquist at bluemountain@entermail.net.

Please provide us a report on the events you attend. When and where was the event? Who sponsored it? About how many people attended? Did any issues come up that Affirmation should know about? Send the report to umaaffirmation@yahoo.com.

Affirmation Speaks at Eastern PA MFSA Conference

On Saturday, April 22, 2006, at Arch Street UMC in Philadelphia, Affirmation was represented by Jim Palmquist at an Eastern Pennsylvania Methodist Federation for Social Action (MFSA) Conference. The name of the conference was "ReconneXion to Justice". The keynote speaker was Rev. Dr. Gil Caldwell.

It was a great event for idea sharing, spreading our message across the progressives in eastern Pennsylvania and generating strategies for Annual Conference. About 80 people attended. Rev. Caldwell was eloquent and insightful in his call to not imitate conservative successes, but to maintain our integrity. There is a liberal streak in the heart of everyone just waiting to be released, he said. Progressives need to hold hands across the liberal-conservative poles, as further polarization is bad.

Jim gave the message that Affirmation provides a safe place for LGBT UMs to talk to each other, critique the church and allies from our experience. He brought some newsletters and brochures plus information from our last newsletter on the St. Louis retreat coming up this fall. Jim found that a lot of people in the room had heard of Affirmation, but were unclear about what we do.

Remembering Howard and Milly Eychaner *(Continued from page 7)*

There are two more, quite personal, reasons I was flooded with grateful memories of Howard and Milly Eychaner – and their names are Howard and Lucile Mitchem. Yes, in several ways my parents' lives paralleled Howard's and Milly's. In addition to the obvious – advocating for and supporting LGBT children and the larger justice issues for the LGBT community through Affirmation, Reconciling Congregations, PFLAG, etc., the four of them became acquaintances and colleagues working together as Northcentral Jurisdiction delegates to Jurisdictional Conference, General Conference, and the World Methodist Conferences. Before writing this tribute, I talked to my Mother – the only one of the four still living – to check the accuracy of my memories. I'm convinced just knowing of each other's commitments and occasionally having opportunities to share experiences, helped them continue lives of faithfulness through hostile times in the church and in society.

We miss your presence, Howard and Milly Eychaner, and celebrate your lasting legacy! You embodied for us the truth of Martin Luther King's words —"We must accept finite disappointment, but we must never lose infinite hope."

GLBTA Cookbook

Jennell Carter is working on creating a cookbook that will celebrate food and the GLBTA (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or ally) community. Her ultimate vision is to provide a look at what makes a family in the GLBTA community and beyond, and to share how we celebrate our families through food. She envisions a product that actively encourages people to open their minds to a broader appreciation of family.

The cookbook will contain stories and favorite recipes from everyday GLBTA people, youth groups, as well as GLBTA chefs, politicians, musicians, actors/actresses, and allies. Participation from members of our GLBTA community is critical to the success of this book. She would appreciate any submission of recipes and stories from your family as they relate to food and celebration. Pictures are welcome if you have them, and are willing to share!

Submissions should be mailed to: Jennell Carter; [REDACTED] Portland, ME [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED] web: www.outinthekitchen.com.

Faces of Affirmation

By Rev. David Meredith

In the Orthodox tradition of Christianity, an icon is a painting through which one encounters God. It is a visible gate through which one encounters the invisible Mystery. Affirmation is launching an embodiment of the same idea called "FACES OF AFFIRMATION." It is hoped that the real faces of real Affirmation members and supporters will become the visible gate through which others encounter the invisible mystery of God.

It is a rather simple task. A member of Affirmation attends a conference, an LGBT event, or a United Methodist gathering. She/he wears an Affirmation shirt or name badge identifying their affiliation. He/she staffs a table or carries materials to distribute. She/he answers questions of anyone who inquires. He/she proclaims in word and deed the mission of Affirmation.

The Council has accepted the challenge to become the "FACES OF AFFIRMATION" at events over the next six months.

- ✠ Jim Palmquist was the FACE OF AFFIRMATION at the Eastern Pennsylvania Methodist Federation for Social Action Conference.
- ✠ Nancy Giese will be the FACE OF AFFIRMATION at the Grandparent/Grandchild camp of the Minnesota Conference.
- ✠ David Meredith will be the FACE OF AFFIRMATION at the West Ohio Annual Conference.
- ✠ John Calhoun will be the FACE OF AFFIRMATION at the "Claiming an Open Spirit" conference in Toronto.
- ✠ Jim Palmquist will be the FACE OF AFFIRMATION at the "All Together Now" event in Eastern Pennsylvania.
- ✠ Nancy Giese will be the FACE OF AFFIRMATION at the Reconciling Ministries Clergy meeting in Chicago.
- ✠ Diane DeLap will be the FACE OF AFFIRMATION at the New England Annual Conference.
- ✠ Ken Rowe will be the FACE OF AFFIRMATION at the United Methodist Progressive Movement planning table and the General Conference 2008 pre-planning conversation.

You can be a FACE of Affirmation as well. We're looking for persons to embody AFFIRMATION at the following events:

- ✠ Clergy Women's Consultation - Chicago - August 2006
- ✠ Holy Relationships Midwest Regional - Iowa City - October 2006
- ✠ Creating Change Conference - Kansas City - November 2006
- ✠ Local Human Rights Campaign Events
- ✠ Annual Conference Events
- ✠ PFLAG Events
- ✠ Local Pride Events

Please put on the FACE of Affirmation and attend events. If you need some guidelines, materials, or encouragement please e-mail the Lynx committee at ohiodavidm@aol.com. If you have been the FACE of Affirmation or plan to be the FACE of Affirmation at any of the above events or other events, please e-mail the Lynx committee at ohiodavidm@aol.com.

Those Great Affirmation Shirts – Last Call

This is the last call for those of you who want an Affirmation shirt. We no longer have stock in all sizes, and we don't have plans to replenish our inventory. So get them while they are still available. More information about the shirts is available at our web site: www.umaffirm.org/shirts.html. We still have inventory:

Price delivered (free shipping if you order by 8/15/06)

Long Sleeve: [This is a \$5 savings.] Extra Large: \$ 30 each; Large: \$ 30 each

Short Sleeve: Extra Extra Large: \$ 25 each; Extra Large: \$ 25 each; Large: \$ 25 each

Tell us which shirt you want (long sleeve or short sleeve), provide the size you want, a check, mailing address, email address, and phone number. Please mail a check for the appropriate amount made payable to 'Affirmation' to: Blue Mountain Group, P.O. Box 3007, Allentown, PA 18106.

General Conference Plans Well Underway

By Amy Stapleton, MFSa Field Organizer

General Conference will be here before we know it. But that is not to say that we will not be prepared. In fact, NOW IS THE TIME TO ORGANIZE. Several pieces are already in place for Ft. Worth. A hotel has been secured for coalition work and lodging just across from the Fort Worth Convention Center where General Conference will be held. Space has also been negotiated for the amazing "loaves and fishes" lunch and speaker series at a downtown church.

Coalition work at General Conference includes ministries of hospitality, witness, worship, and monitoring legislation. The Methodist Federation for Social Action has written materials, and has a CD Power Point presentation about organizing to elect progressive delegates to General Conference 2008. Email mfsa@mfsaweb.org to ask for written materials and/or a copy of the CD, and it will be sent immediately. Don't wait until 2007. Organizing should be underway now!

Although General Conference will not be in session until 2008, contact the persons who served as General Conference delegates in 2004. Let them know your hope for the church and the issues of justice that are at stake. These persons remain your delegates to General Conference until elections for 2008 are held, and many of these persons may be re-elected in 2008. Also consider writing to reserve delegates and Jurisdictional delegates, many of whom attend, and at times find themselves voting at, General Conference.

Things to include in your letter:

- Express your dismay at the ruling of the Judicial Council.
- Ask them what they are doing to see that this decision is reversed.
- Ask them to support any and all legislation that will counter the actions of these judicial activists and their supporters in the Good News and Confessing Movements.

Ask those who intend to run as GC delegates at their 2007 Annual Conferences to carefully consider who they will be electing to the Judicial Council in 2008.

Friends, this is just the beginning. Many are discouraged, outraged, and surprised by the recent Judicial Council rulings. Don't mourn, organize!

Affirmation

Affirmation AN INDEPENDENT VOICE FOR:
UNITED METHODISTS FOR LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER,
AND QUEER CONCERNS

**You are invited to
JOIN AFFIRMATION FOR A
WEEKEND OF RETREAT and
RENEWAL**

**LABOR DAY WEEKEND
Friday, September 1, 2006 (5 PM) to
Monday, September 4, 2006 (noon)**

COME AND ENJOY A TIME AWAY FOR SPIRITUAL RENEWAL AND
SPIRITUAL GROWTH THROUGH EXPERIENCES OF GOD AND
COMMUNITY AROUND THE THEME OF EMBODIED QUEER THEOLOGY.

Our retreat guides will be:

**Rev. David Meredith - Pastor, Broad St. UMC, Columbus, OH;
Convenor, Reconciling Ministries Clergy; Member, Affirmation
Council
and**

**Jeanne Hoeft - Assistant Professor of Pastoral Care, Saint Paul
School of Theology.**

at LaSalle Retreat Center, St. Louis, Missouri

La Salle Retreat Center is located on 180 acres of wooded hills and open valleys – which includes abundant lawns and pathways. It is run by the De La Salle Christian Brothers, a group of lay religious men devoted to education. The facilities include a Chapel, meeting and dining rooms, and private bedrooms with a single bed, desk and sink in each room. Bed linens, blankets, towels, washcloths and soap are provided. Showers and restrooms are centrally located on each floor. All indoor space is smoke-free, smoking in designated outdoor space provided.



**Affirmation: United Methodists for
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns
PO Box 1021; Evanston, IL 60204**

www.umaffirm.org

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/UMCalledOut>